



Science and Wonder

New natural history exhibitions in Norway's oldest museum building

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Sea hare *Aplysia* sp.
Photo: Manuel Malaquias

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A transforming museum

The University of Bergen is refurbishing Norway's oldest museum building! After the rehabilitation, the building will meet the requirements of modern museum management, and be arranged for varied research dissemination.

This pamphlet summarises the University of Bergen's plans for the future dissemination activity in the fantastic museum building. Naturally, the new exhibitions are centre of attention.

In its work to formulate these plans, the Museum has placed emphasis on the basic material that has developed over the years in committee work, meetings, and discussions among our own employees, and with external resource persons.

In the course of the process, we have got a fairly good impression of the themes that are the Museum's strongest cards as regards dissemination, both considered in relation to the collections, the academic activity, and the building and the institution's history. Here, in Norway's oldest museum building, the history of the museum and the academic disciplines will be experienced directly!

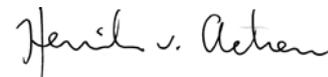
The extensive collections of the University Museum, gathered over nearly 200 years, give us an enormous potential for professionalism with regard to the exhibition format. The visitors will have a multiplicity of both experiences and understanding.

The exhibitions at the University Museum of Bergen will reflect research dissemination on a high international level – as would be expected of a University Museum.

There are, however, many things that need to be weighed against each other, and in this, we must acknowledge that we in our work with the exhibitions cannot possibly encompass all aspects of what is exciting and interesting. Our choices are based on comprehensive thinking, in which we wish to put together several stories that each in their own way shed light on different aspects of the «Big History».

With the renovated museum, the University of Bergen will ensure the safekeeping of the historic heritage, while at the same time obtaining a new museum. This will be a modern and unique arena for dissemination and discussions on science.

Look forward to what's coming next!



Henrik von Achen
Museum Director



Terje Lislevand
Project Leader



Photo: Marianne Røsvik, UiB

Summary

Bergen's University Museum

The University of Bergen is going to rehabilitate the old museum building at Musépllass 3. This provides a basis for creating a modern and unique dissemination arena in the Museum. This plan describes how it will be carried out, with emphasis on the background and some overall objectives set for the new exhibitions.

A monument

The dignified building at Musépllass 3 is Norway's oldest museum building, and thus a monument to the national history of science. Furthermore, it is an important part of the identity of the city of Bergen. The rehabilitation will preserve the unique historic qualities, and at the same time renovate the building and turn it into a modern museum and a meeting point for the University and the surrounding community.

Museum for all

The Museum will have a good universal design that makes it accessible to all, a new museum café and a fairly large museum shop. A large area will be used for the teaching of school classes and other user groups. The Tower Room has been locked up for nearly a hundred years, but will now be restored and made ready for public access. In addition, the University of Bergen will get a completely new Aula in the building's south wing. The target audience of the exhibitions will be the general public.

The Vision

Our exhibitions will incite wonder, fascination, and curiosity among our visitors. We will achieve this by presenting and discussing the world's immense natural and cultural wealth.

Natural history and interdisciplinarity

The new permanent exhibitions will span a broad range of natural history themes with an interdisciplinary character. In general, the exhibitions will comprise the physical environment, evolution, and biological diversity. Within this framework, we will also tell stories about human beings in nature and about academic activities.

Exhibitions

This pamphlet presents themes for eight new permanent exhibitions that the University Museum will produce in the rehabilitated building. The idea behind each of the exhibitions is to create experiences and enhance understanding. Changing exhibitions as well as upgraded visitor facilities will give Musépllass 3 a prominent position in the public outreach activities of the University of Bergen.

Introduction

Thoughts about nature occupy our minds for a number of different reasons. An animal or a plant may have something quite distinctive and exciting about them that attracts or engages, and that we would like to know more about. Nature means a lot to many of us in providing a source of recreation and experiences, outdoor-life and food production. And, not least, economic interests are important in the utilisation of natural resources, e.g. the oil and gas industry, the mining, agricultural and fishing industries.

In addition, aesthetic notions guide our commitment to nature. We may be fascinated by what we perceive as beautiful, whether it be an animal, flowers, stones and minerals, or entire landscape formations and natural environments. Humans themselves are part of nature, and by studying it in depth, we not only increase our understanding of the world around us, but also the understanding of ourselves.

Humans have always utilised their natural environment, and today we affect the environment more than ever. Nature research is therefore of vital importance to understand these influences and to be a prerequisite for a sustainable management of our own basis of existence. To disseminate knowledge from this type of research is important in order to raise awareness around the challenges that need to be solved in nature and natural resource management.

Our natural history museums are in possession of special qualifications that enable them to conduct research and disseminate knowledge about nature. The museums can stimulate people's desires to learn more as was pointed out in Report no. 15 to the Storting (2007-2008), «Tingenes tale». The Report encourages the universities to increase the use of their museums to disseminate research results, and to use them as show windows for research. The museums have, in accordance with the Report, a special dissemination obligation to children, young people, and the general public. The dissemination aimed at the school system should be reinforced in order to increase the interest in natural sciences.

The University Museum of Bergen (founded under the name Bergens Museum in 1825) is one of Norway's oldest research institutions and the forerunner of the city's university that was founded in 1946. The Museum produces and communicates research-based knowledge, and manages large collections within natural and cultural history.

The Museum consists of two research and collection units: The Cultural History Collections which comprise the disciplines archaeology, anthropology, and church and cultural history, and The Natural History Collections which comprise botany, geology, and zoology. The exhibitions are housed in two historic buildings, that of natural history at Muséplass 3 (from 1865 and extended with two side wings in 1898) and of cultural history at Haakon Shetelig's plass 10. In addition, the Museum has two display gardens, one at Muséplass 3 and one at Milde.

In 2009, the outer facades and windows of the building at Muséplass 3 were renovated. In the same year, the planning work for a large restoration was started. This work is being carried out by Statsbygg (The Norwegian Directorate of Public Construction and Property) and started up in the autumn of 2013. The Exhibition Project at the University Museum of Bergen is developing new exhibitions for mounting in the renovated museum building. Some of our old exhibitions are worthy of preservation, and they will therefore be taken care of in the best possible way. The planning work for the new exhibitions is being carried out parallel to the work on the building.

The large-scale rehabilitation will give us an opportunity to create a completely unique and modern dissemination arena in the old museum building. In line with the recommendations from «Tingenes tale», we wish to show excellent natural history exhibitions that are of current interest; exhibitions that reflect the academic activities at both the University Museum and other academic communities at the University of Bergen.



Photo: Terje Lislevand

Unique dissemination arena

In its time, Bergens Museum played a decisive role in the establishment of Bergen as a city of research and education. The long academic traditions positively ooze out of the walls of the old and dignified building. Muséplass 3 presents itself as a monument to the national history of science, and an important part of the identity of the City of Bergen.

With its history, age, and architecture, situated near the City Centre in a beautiful garden, the old museum building in Bergen holds qualities that give it a prominent position in Norway's cultural history and the history of science.

The aim of the Museum project is to preserve these qualities and at the same time renovate the facilities in order to obtain a modern meeting place between the University and surrounding community. As before, the building at Muséplass 3 will be presenting natural history exhibitions, where the dissemination and dialogue with the public will take place in a number of different ways.

An extensive upgrade of infrastructure and building stock will give us far better working conditions to work on, as well as to experience these exhibitions. New premises for the Museum's education services, new museum shop, café and a monumental aula for the University of Bergen, are components of this. The same applies to the restoration of the Tower Room. This beautiful room will reopen to the public after having been locked up for more than one hundred years.

In this way, the Museum will be better organized in its services to schools, for meetings, lectures, and a variety of different cultural events.

Collectively, this will convert the monumental museum building into a truly unique arena for dissemination of knowledge and research.

Vision

Our exhibitions
will incite wonder,
fascination and curiosity
in our visitors





The Exhibition Project at the University Museum of Bergen will use innovative and varied presentation formats. This will support the message and inspire visitors to develop a deeper interest in the themes that the exhibition focuses on. Knowledge updates on the vast diversity that exists in the worlds of natural and cultural heritage will be illustrated and discussed. Illustration: Carle Lange

A professional starting point

With this book *The origin of species* (1859) Charles Darwin completely changed the way we think about organisms, by introducing the idea that species are not static, but evolve through a natural selection process. There is a natural variation in the characteristics among species where those who are best adapted to the prevailing environmental conditions are those who survive the best and reproduce the most. They will thus produce more offspring that will inherit, and ensure the continuation of, the favoured traits.

Research on biological diversity has always been at the heart of the scientific work at the University Museum of Bergen. For nearly 200 years, the Museum has taken care of and recorded hundreds of thousands of animals and plants for scientific studies – often several tens of specimens of each species. The collections are in this way a documentation of natural variation in traits – both within particular species and among species.

But nature is not, as we all know, merely made up of living organisms, and we could give the concept of natural variation a more general meaning than the one Darwin had in mind. The surroundings where organisms live are also characterised by an infinite variation of sizes and forms, functions, and compositions. Just take the multitude of different types of rocks that are found on earth, the shaping of the continents and landscape formations, water and ocean, climate and air. All this vary in exciting and impressing ways.

This diversity often make us stop and wonder. Both researchers and the public ask questions like what, where, how, and why. Many researchers are capable of answering these questions, and they may point to new, interesting problems for discussion that are not apparent to most people. We do not even know the answers to many of these questions today.

This is the professional starting point in our work to create new natural history exhibitions in Muséplass 3.





Photo: Fred Marius Svendsen

The treasure trove

The Natural History Collections comprise an enormous treasure trove of animals, plants, minerals and a variety of species of rocks. In total, the collection contains around 2.2 million objects. A majority of these have been collection for scientific purposes and are kept in the Museum's storage rooms.

Some parts of the material have been taken care of for exhibition purposes and mounted or prepared for this purpose only. The Cultural History Collections holds important historical objects that reflect the tradition, methods, and prevailing mentality behind the establishment and expansion of the Natural History Collections. Such objects will be used to present this activity from a historical angle.

The genuine objects are of inestimable value for the exhibitions. If a key object is missing in the Museum's collections, we will try to obtain one, either by purchase or preparation, for example, by stuffing animals.

Left:
Hagfish used by Fridtjof Nansen in
his studies of the nervous system.
Photo: Terje Lislevand

Middle:
Showy Lady's Slipper orchid. Photo: Jan Berge
Horse cranium from the Oseberg find. Photo: Tore Fredriksen
Gold from Bømlø. Photo: Terje Lislevand

Right:
Passenger pigeon. Photo: Fred Marius Svendsen
The Naustdal wolf. Photo: Terje Lislevand





The natural history collections contain a number of treasures that are of great value in an exhibition. Here are some examples:

- ◆ Norway's largest collection of animal skeletons
- ◆ Large collections of mounted birds and mammals from all over the world
- ◆ Several species (skin or bone fragments) that are completely extinct today, like the great auk, the Carolina parakeet, the passenger pigeon, the Tasmanian wolf, the dodo, the Barbary lion, the giant deer, the aurochs, and the mammoth
- ◆ The last Lofoten Horse, an extinct Norwegian horse breed
- ◆ "The Naustdal wolf", the hitherto last wolf to be shot in Western Norway
- ◆ Skeletons of the horses that were found buried in the Oseberg ship
- ◆ Animals collected during historic expeditions, like the Fram expeditions to the North Pole, Amundsen's South Pole expeditions and Amundsen's boat journey through the North-West Passage
- ◆ Scientific material collected by Fridtjof Nansen during his work at Bergens Museum
- ◆ A large collection of minerals from all over the world
- ◆ An extensive herbarium and living plants in the Museum Garden and the Arboretum and Botanical Garden at Milde

Exhibition concept

The exhibitions and the dissemination of knowledge at the Museum will be founded on research and the world of science. We will therefore present both the knowledge that are used as a basis for modern research, and knowledge that is generated from this research. In the exhibitions, good stories and critical thinking will be two recurring key values, and we will disseminate interdisciplinary themes.

Wonder and a desire to broaden their knowledge is a fundamental part of researchers' motivation. Exhibitions are not only excellent channels of communication; they may also incite wonder in visitors. We want our exhibitions to reflect some of the playfulness, the creativity, and the curiosity that are present in all types of research. We believe that this will stimulate the visitors' curiosity, and enhance people's ability to understand the message of the exhibitions.

The new exhibitions will reflect how knowledge changes and how science develops through debate and professional disagreement. We don't mind presenting opposing professional views – unresolved research issues are just as interesting as the ones we already know the answers to.

The ambition is therefore to introduce visitors to research processes and methods, and place the research in a wider context based in the history of science. As such, the exhibitions will also explain, elaborate on and problematise issues that are of current interest in today's society. The changing exhibitions are especially well suited for this purpose.

The knowledge of our professionals and the objects in the Museum's collections are the two most important prerequisites for the exhibitions. Where conditions otherwise are the same, we want to show objects of local and national origin rather than exotic or foreign ones.

The exhibition will comprise two main themes:

1) The physical environment and 2) Evolution and biological diversity. Within this general framework, we will also look for connecting links and tell stories about humans in nature and about academic activities. Changes over time is an aspect that will permeate all the exhibitions, and interdisciplinary themes will be introduced where fitting.

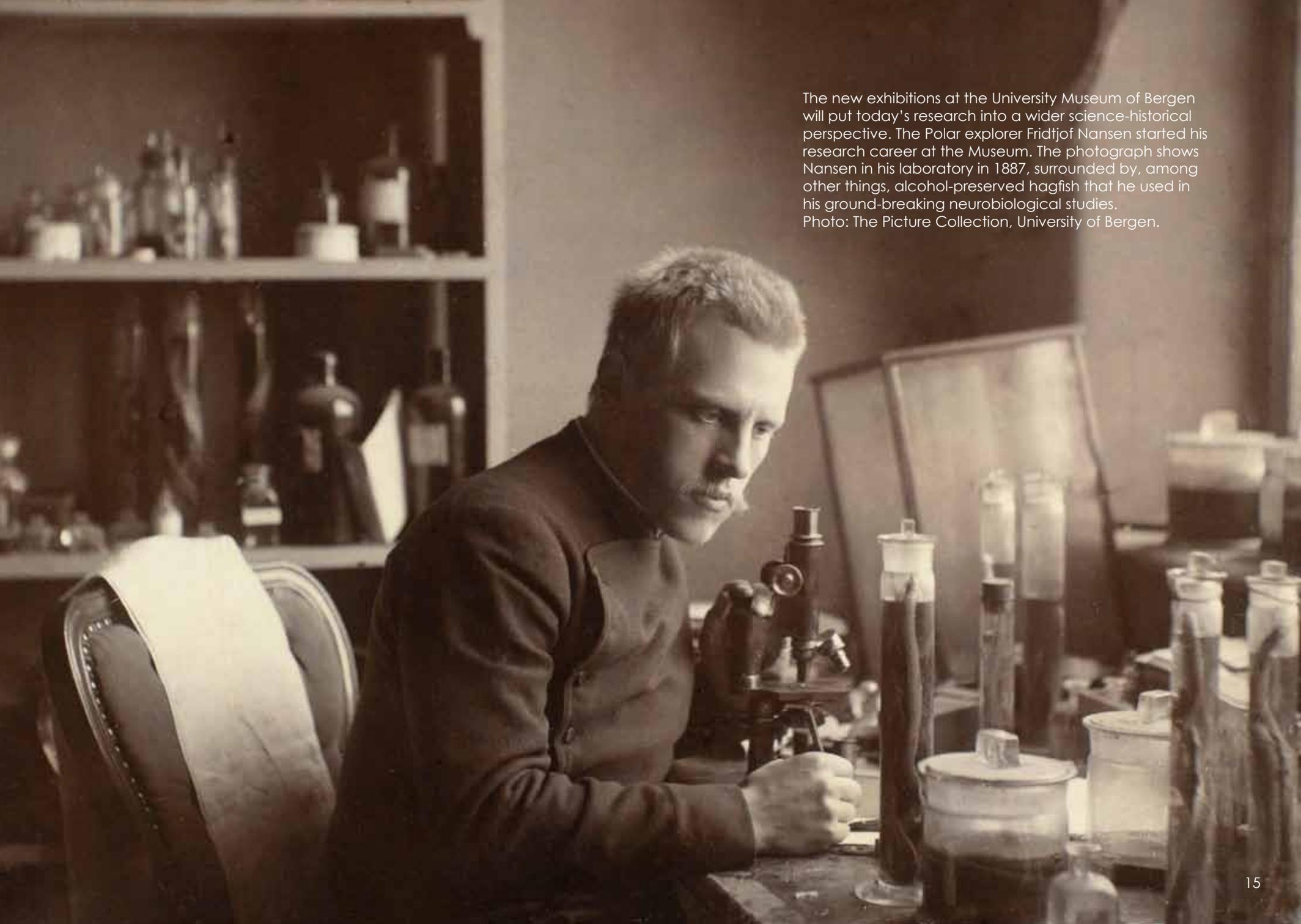
The Museum's own history and magnificent exhibition rooms give us a unique backdrop for disseminating the history of science. Objects from our cultural history collections are of inestimable value as source material to present different interdisciplinary perspectives. Accordingly, it will be possible to tell stories about the past, the present, and the future in one and the same museum.

Along with the exhibition objects themselves, we will use state-of-the-art dissemination tools and technologies including lighting and audio, photo, film and other forms of visualisation. The dissemination can be supported by various art forms, and a thoroughly prepared scenography will be a significant part of all exhibitions.

Exhibitions will be supplemented by additional information in other media, like digital exhibitions, educational programmes, web pages, mobile applications, exhibition catalogues, brochures, books, and a number of various events and visitor activities.

An important goal is to engage visitors, in particular young people, in a dialogue about selected themes. The education services will play an important part in this.

With this as a concept, the exhibitions will be solidly anchored in the activities at the Museum, and in many other professional environments at the University of Bergen.



The new exhibitions at the University Museum of Bergen will put today's research into a wider science-historical perspective. The Polar explorer Fridtjof Nansen started his research career at the Museum. The photograph shows Nansen in his laboratory in 1887, surrounded by, among other things, alcohol-preserved hagfish that he used in his ground-breaking neurobiological studies. Photo: The Picture Collection, University of Bergen.



Target groups

The dissemination arena, Muséclass 3, is oriented towards the general public, and will offer activities for several different target groups. Today, there are two main categories of visitors to the Museum – families with children and school children. Through our exhibitions and the teaching premises in the basement, we will enhance our work with these groups. Other dissemination activities will be geared towards an adult audience, both local visitors from Bergen and Western Norway, and other visitors.

During the continuing planning process for each of the exhibitions, it will be essential to define the prospective main target groups in more detail than what we have done here. Some exhibitions may shed light on themes that are of interest to more well-defined target groups.

The Whale Hall and exhibitions with marine life themes may, for example, be particularly attractive to people who work within ocean management or the marine industry. In the same manner, an exhibition about biological diversity may appeal to nature conservationists or people who work within nature conservation management. Our exhibitions will in addition be of topical interest and inspiring to students at the University of Bergen.

The exhibitions are oriented towards the general public.
Photo: Siri Skretting Jansen

A walk through the Whale Hall.
Photo: Siri Skretting Jansen



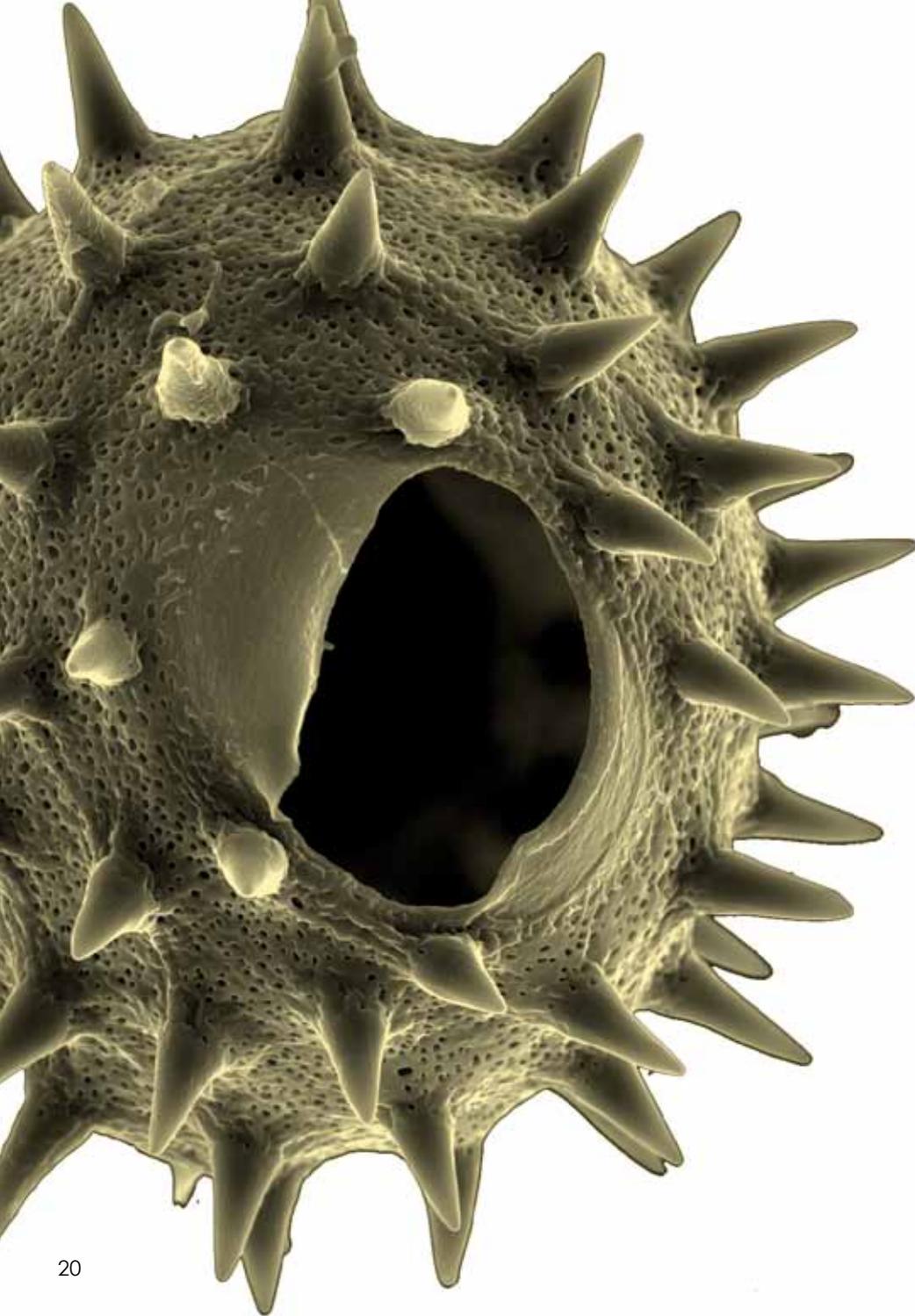
The background of the slide features a repeating pattern of a yellow grid with black Chinese calligraphy. The characters are arranged in vertical columns and are written in a traditional, expressive style. The grid lines are thin and light yellow, creating a subtle structure for the text.

Permanent exhibitions

As an initial thematic delimitation for the new exhibitions in Muséclass 3, we here describe each individual exhibition by means of a working title, a main message, and a brief description of the content of the exhibition. We also provide reasons as to why the theme in question is important in an exhibition at the University Museum of Bergen.

We use the concept permanent exhibition for exhibitions which thematically fall within the core activities of the Museum, and which will be built to last for a long period of time. Normally, these types of exhibitions have a lifetime of 12-15 years. The majority of our new exhibitions at Muséclass 3 will be permanent exhibitions of this kind.





From the ice age to the future

By studying the fauna, flora, and landscapes of the past, we can better predict future environmental changes

Fauna, flora, and landscape have undergone great changes from the last ice age and up to today. The University Museum has a long history of research on how nature has changed over time. Key factors shaping the landscape are the climate, the ocean level, migration of plants and animals, and not least humans. This type of research is important to understand changes that take place today.

From what we already know of previous environmental changes, how will today's human-induced climate changes affect our future environment? In this exhibition, we can use a number of the fine bone finds we have obtained from caves and rock shelters in West Norway, and also macro fossils (plant remains in particular) and pollen models. It is natural to see the exhibition in relation to quaternary geology in the exhibition «The making of the land» (p. 23) and in relation to biological diversity and extinct species in the exhibitions «Life forms» (p. 24) and «EX-endangered species» (p. 31).

Coltsfoot Pollen grain
(0,04 mm).
Photo: Jan Berge

Musk oxen,
an ice age animal.
Photo: Terje Lislevand





The making of a land

Violent natural forces have shaped the bedrock and our landscape through 3.6 billion years

Geology is not just about sheer rock, but a multiplicity of colours and forms – from glowing lava to magnificent crystals, gold, silver, and fossils.

The exhibition will offer visitors an introduction to the exciting world of geology. The history of how Norway was formed is relatively unknown to most people, but important in order to understand our natural environment. We will present glimpses of this history, both the incredibly long and fascinating history of the bedrock, and also how the ice ages finally formed our landscape in dramatic ways.

The exhibition will be divided into four main sections:

- ◆ Bedrock
- ◆ The Caledonian Mountain Belt
- ◆ Oil and gas in the North Sea
- ◆ Quaternary geology

The exhibitions may be seen in connection with a geological collection of wonder (p. 35) which will show minerals and rocks from both Norway and the world, and become an important part of the educational programmes.

The exhibition «The making of a land» will provide an insight into the geological processes that have governed the development of Norway's bedrock and landscape formations.
Illustration: Carle Lange

Scenery from Lofoten.
Photo: Beate Helle





Life forms

Species are not uniform and static units, but vary and develop continually and gradually in relation to their surroundings

The exhibition takes its point of departure in the Museum's large collections of animals, plants and fossils, and will show that evolution forms the basis of the large variation in life forms on Earth. The well-stocked, biological collections and the research on the wide variety of organisms that surround us, give the natural history museums a key role to broaden our knowledge about natural patterns and processes. This insight is important in order to be able to manage the natural world that surrounds us in a sustainable way.

The exhibition deals with what the biological diversity actually is, how it came into being, how it develops. Some natural sub-themes will include speciation, biosystematics and naming (taxonomy), adaptations, natural and artificial selection, human evolution, and sexual selection. Examples from botany may provide a connection to the exhibitions of living plants in the Museum Garden.

Left:
Green-veined White.
Photo: John-Arvid Grytnes
Angler. Photo: David Rees

Right:
Northern lapwing male.
Photo: Terje Lislevand
Trailing azalea.
Photo: Beate Helle

European red fox.
Photo: Terje Lislevand





A Whale Hall

With its unique skeleton collection, the historic Whale Hall is the Museum's signature exhibition

The Whale Hall has been a distinguishing part of the museum building at Muséplass 3 ever since it was built in 1865. With its many large whale skeletons hanging from the ceiling in this room, the Whale Hall presents itself as the very heart of the natural history collections. This distinctive hall makes a lasting impression on most visitors, and may therefore be regarded as the Museum's signature exhibition. The historic atmosphere in this room will therefore be preserved.

The Whale Hall is an exhibition focusing on marine biology. An upgrade of the exhibitions in the Whale Hall was carried out in 2006-2007. In the years 2010-2012, an extensive cleaning and restoration of the whale skeletons that are hanging from the ceiling was carried out.

The exhibitions consist mainly of a systematic presentation of marine mammals (whales and seals), fish and invertebrates. Additionally, it could also contain information on these animals' way of life and general information on marine biology. It will thus thematically become an extension of the exhibitions «Life forms» (p. 24) and «Norwegian seas» (p. 28), but with a very distinctive visual expression.

In the whale's belly.
Photo: Zina Fihl

View of the Whale Hall with whale skeletons and a stuffed basking shark.
Photo: Terje Lislevand





Norwegian seas

Modern research has given us extensive knowledge about our adjacent ocean areas

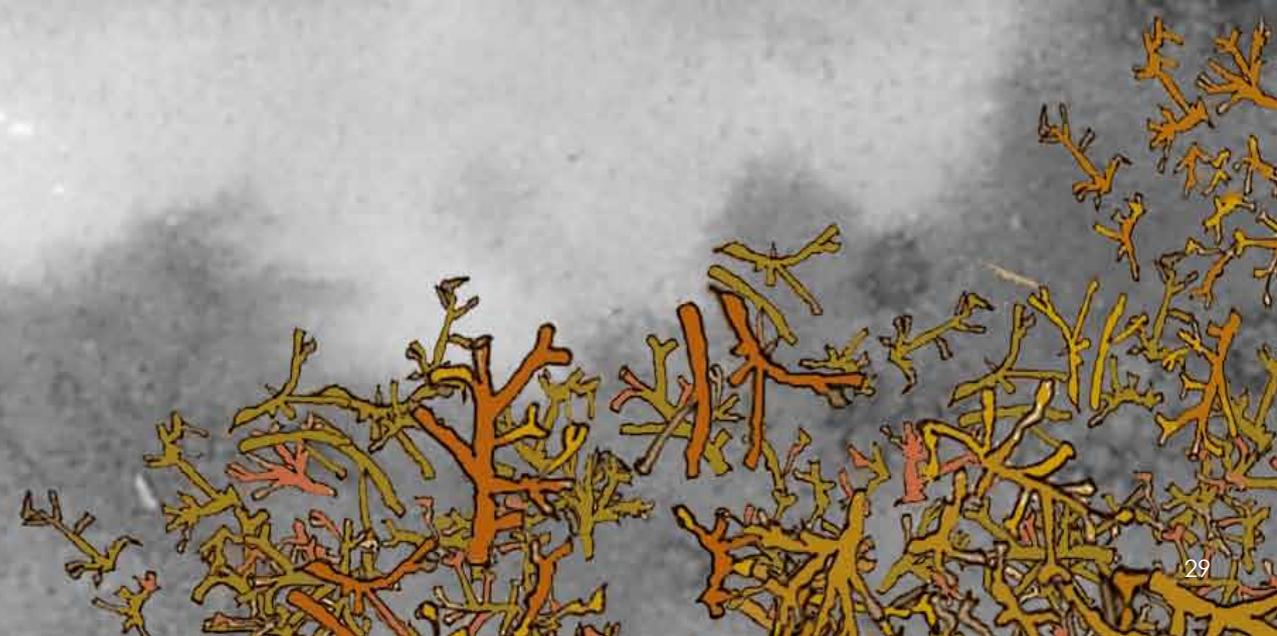
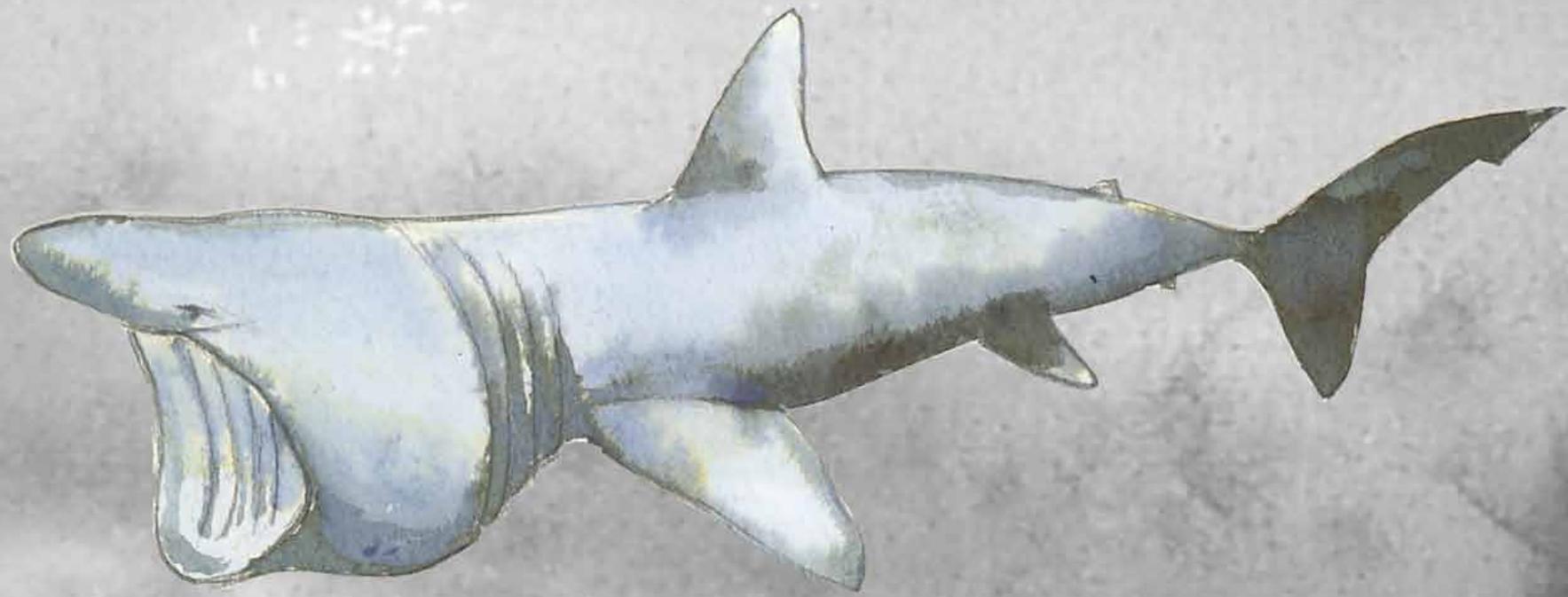
The ocean areas still seem enigmatic to us in many ways, despite longstanding research and hunt for marine resources. Several large research projects are now changing all this, and the exhibition will focus on some of the many interesting discoveries they have made. Marine research is a national priority area, as well as a priority area for the University of Bergen. Many of today's specialist environments within marine research and management in Norway have their roots in Bergens Museum.

Bergen is home to a number of marine research environments whose competence may be put to use in the work on the exhibition, such as the Institute of Marine Research (IMR), the University of Bergen's own marine research environments, and Centre for Geobiology. The exhibition will have an interdisciplinary perspective and shed light on how geological processes like volcanoes and continental drift, topography and nature types determine the conditions for life in the ocean. Maybe humans also leave «traces» on the sea floor?

The ocean conceals enormous amounts of organisms, from the small single-celled bacteria and plankton to large fishes (shown here: a basking shark) and whales. All these organisms are affected by each other and by environmental conditions in the ocean.

The exhibition «Norwegian seas» will give the public an insight into the fantastic variation, diversity and complexity of the marine environments.

Illustration: Carle Lange





EX – endangered species

An increasing number of organisms are threatened by humans' lack of awareness about how we affect the natural world that surrounds us

Many organisms have become extinct in the last two hundred years only, often a consequence of humans' lack of awareness and knowledge. Understanding factors which lead to extinction could help us developing means to protect biodiversity.

The stories about endangered and extinct species are often thought-provoking, and some of these species have obtained an almost iconic status in nature conservation work. Often, natural history museums are the only places we still can find remains of extinct species, and the University Museum of Bergen has some material of this kind in the form of bone fragments and stuffed animals.

By telling the stories of some of the many species that are extinct or endangered, this exhibition will highlight human-caused loss of biological diversity. The exhibition can direct attention to causes why species become rare and raise ethical questions around this. We can also say something about possible measures to save species from extinction. The exhibition will also contrast natural and human-caused extinction. Can extinction in some contexts be a good thing? The working title of the exhibition refers to IUCN's red list category «Extinct – (EX)» (extinct).

The Eurasian Eagle owl, our largest owl, is today a threatened bird species.
Photo: Frode Falkenberg,
www.falkefoto.no

Sword-leaved Helleborine is a red-listed species in Norway.
Photo: Bjørn Moe





Collections and collectors

The greater part of the Museum's collections are never put on display, but are actively used in modern research

The exhibition will put both the collections and the research into a historical perspective on science, and draw line between the present, the past and the future. How did we really work out what we know today? Why do museums need to take care of hundreds of specimens of one and the same species?

The exhibition will provide an insight into how museum collections serve as a reference material for specialists, and how the use of the collections has changed over time in accordance with the knowledge level and developments in methodology. We may therefore also ask ourselves how the collections can be used in the future. Grouping (systematics and taxonomy) of living organisms and mapping of the geology of Norway have always been core activities of the Museum, and thus well suited to be highlighted with the context of the history of science.

Many outstanding personalities have been responsible for the research and collection activities at the University Museum; among others, Wilhelm Frimann Koren Christie, Daniel Danielsen, and Fridtjof Nansen. The exhibition may provide an insight into how researchers in earlier times thought and worked compared to researchers of today.

Exotic mammals.
Photo: Terje Lislevand

Variation in guillemot eggs.
Photo: Terje Lislevand





Collection of wonder

There are more things in heaven and earth...

An important task for a natural history museum is to show what various organisms or minerals look like. This type of «species knowledge» is a fundamental part of the expertise that our specialist staff possesses, and something that the visitors often expect to find at the Museum. The Collection of wonder offers opportunities to display species and forms that otherwise are not part of the exhibitions, so that visitors through self-tuition can learn to see the difference between them.

Natural history study collections are part of long, academic traditions, but often present themselves as dull, boring, and little inviting. We want to give the study collection a facelift, ensure its richness, and make it attractive to most people. The exhibition will incite a sense of wonder in the viewer. Here, various animals, plants, and minerals can be studied at close range. Some of them may even be touched.

This type of exhibition will be important in the education of different groups, of every type from school children to students, and in connection with special arrangements for the general public.



Butterfly collection.
Photo: Terje Lislevand

Malachite from Arizona.
Photo: Terje Lislevand

Temporary exhibitions

Temporary exhibitions are important to address current issues, to disseminate new research finds, and to create renewal and variation in the Museum's offer to its visitors. We will not suggest themes for temporary exhibitions here, but will put this in concrete form when the time for the opening of the new, renovated Museum is set.

These types of exhibitions provide opportunities to show how culture and nature «overlap», and how the connections between cultural history and natural history phenomena call for interdisciplinary research. A university museum with large and comprehensive collections has a special opportunity to conduct this type of research.

Temporary exhibitions will be both self-produced and borrowed. Often, the cost of a temporary exhibition is equal to the price of a permanent exhibition. How frequently the temporary exhibitions will be changed depend on the financial circumstances and use of resources. We recommend planning for at least one temporary exhibition a year, which will provide good opportunities for dissemination of research on behalf of the University.

The temporary exhibitions will first and foremost be presented on the 2nd floor of the north wing. Access to the area will be by a new lift system that will be connected to a reception room and technical areas for packing/unpacking and mounting in the north wing. In this part of the building, the conditions are favourable to achieve a level of security, so that it will be secure to show high value objects here. To access the temporary exhibitions, visitors will have to walk through the permanent exhibitions. This will contribute to increasing the total experience of the museum visitor.

Tail Feather of
The King Bird-of-paradise.
Photo: Terje Lislevand





Visitor facilities

After the rehabilitation, Muséclass 3 will appear as a functional museum building where universal design ensures access for everyone. It will contain new and modern visitor facilities. There will be a café where visitors can sit down and relax, enjoy the atmosphere of the building and have something to eat and drink. The café will be open to all and will be a social gathering place at the University.

A ticket will not be required to visit the café or the museum shop. In the shop you will, among other things, find exhibition catalogues, books and other articles that are thematically related to the exhibitions and the Museum's disciplines. In this way, the museum shop will be an important part of the total dissemination package.

In the basement, and with easy access to the Museum Garden, there will be a floor space for school classes and other groups who utilise the Museum's educational programmes. The floor space will also be used in connection with events for professionals at weekends and in the evenings. Here, there will be rooms for teaching, group work, laboratories for hands-on demonstrations, premises for the showing of film, and a picnic area for school children. The access to the Museum Garden will connect the exhibitions in the building to the botanical exhibitions in the Garden.

Aula, Tower Room, education rooms, café, garden, and other visitor facilities will leave room for conferences, debates, meetings, and other events. Jointly, all this and the new exhibitions will turn the museum into an important arena for community and public outreach for the entire University.

Corsican hellebore in
the Museum Garden.
Photo: Jan Berge



Education

After the rehabilitation, the museum building at Muséclass 3 will present itself as a modern dissemination arena. This means, among other things, that it will be used for a number of different school programmes involving natural and cultural sciences, and also other types of teaching schemes intended for the general public.

The education offered at the Museum has undergone an important development in the past few years, and it is the Museum's clear goal that these will keep up with high international standards. In addition to increasing the participants' knowledge and encouraging them to engage in reflections, our main idea is to disseminate knowledge of research processes and methods through all of these educational facilities. «Learn to think like a scientist» is the slogan!

The educational activities at the Museum will be closely integrated with the exhibitions. It will also make use of relevant collections and build on theory and methods from different professional environments at UiB.

As UiB's «window to the world», the University Museum is one of the most important places where we can communicate to children and young people what a university really is. The University Museum of Bergen's goal is therefore to be an important arena for recruitment to the University of Bergen (UiB), both through school visits and activities outside school hours.

«Learn to think like a scientist» is the slogan of the teaching offered at the Museum. Photo: Terje Lislevand

Educational facilities and school programmes are important supplements to the exhibitions. Photo: Siri Skretting Jansen

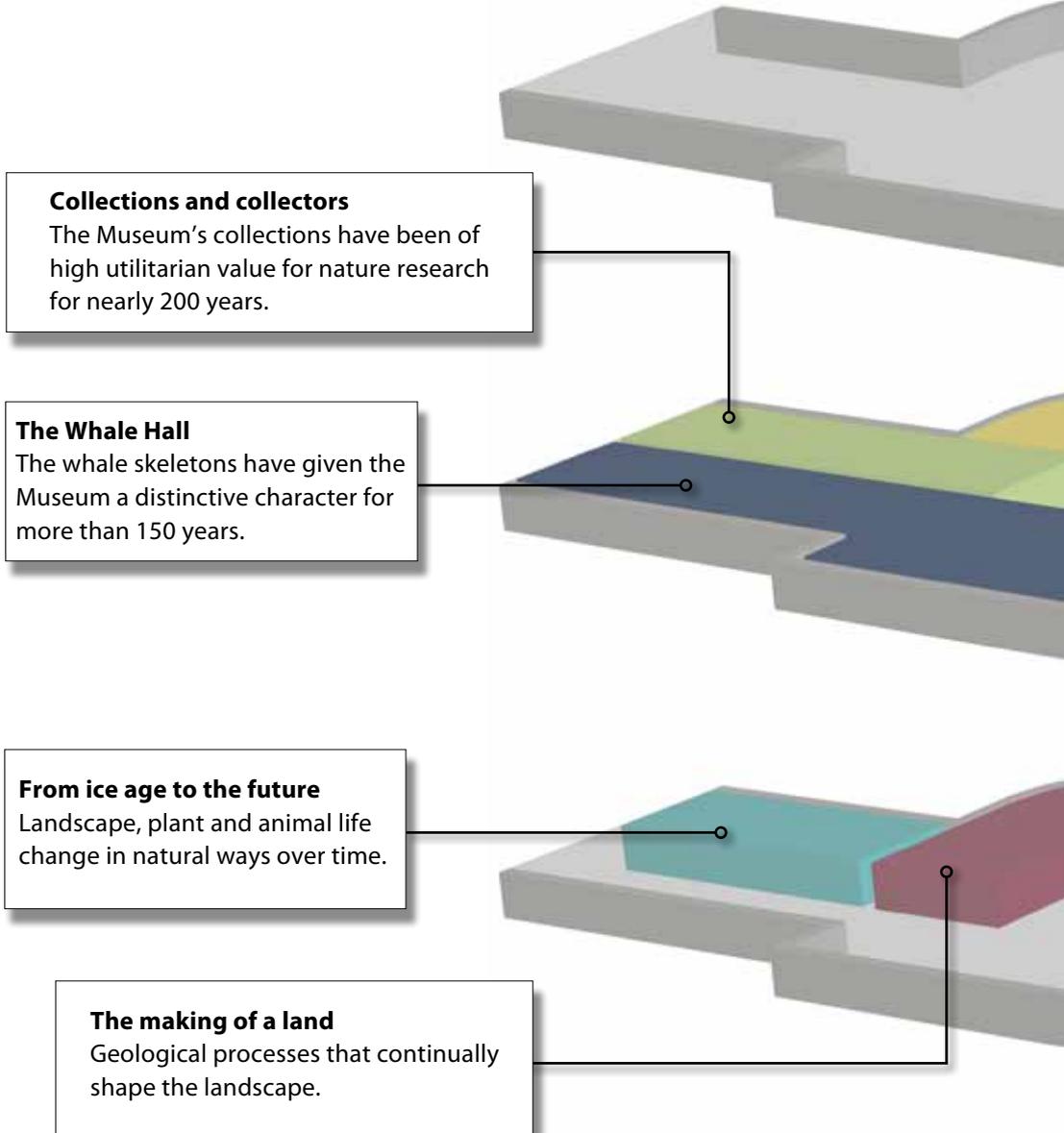


Floor plan

The available exhibition space in Muséplass 3 covers c. 2500 m². Here we present a proposal for area use.

The floor plan comprises the building's spaces that are reserved for exhibitions. These are the ground floor, the 1st floor and the 2nd floor in the north wing, and the ground floor and the 1st floor in the middle part of the building.

Exhibitions that shed light on changes in nature, both natural and human-caused, are found on the ground floor. Here we present insights into environmental conditions that are the basis of life's diversity, which are the exhibition themes on the floors above.



The diagram is a 3D architectural floor plan of a building, showing multiple levels. It is divided into several colored zones: a top grey level, a middle level with a green area and a dark blue area, and a bottom level with a teal area and a red area. Five callout boxes with black lines pointing to specific areas provide descriptive text for each zone.

Collections and collectors

The Museum's collections have been of high utilitarian value for nature research for nearly 200 years.

The Whale Hall

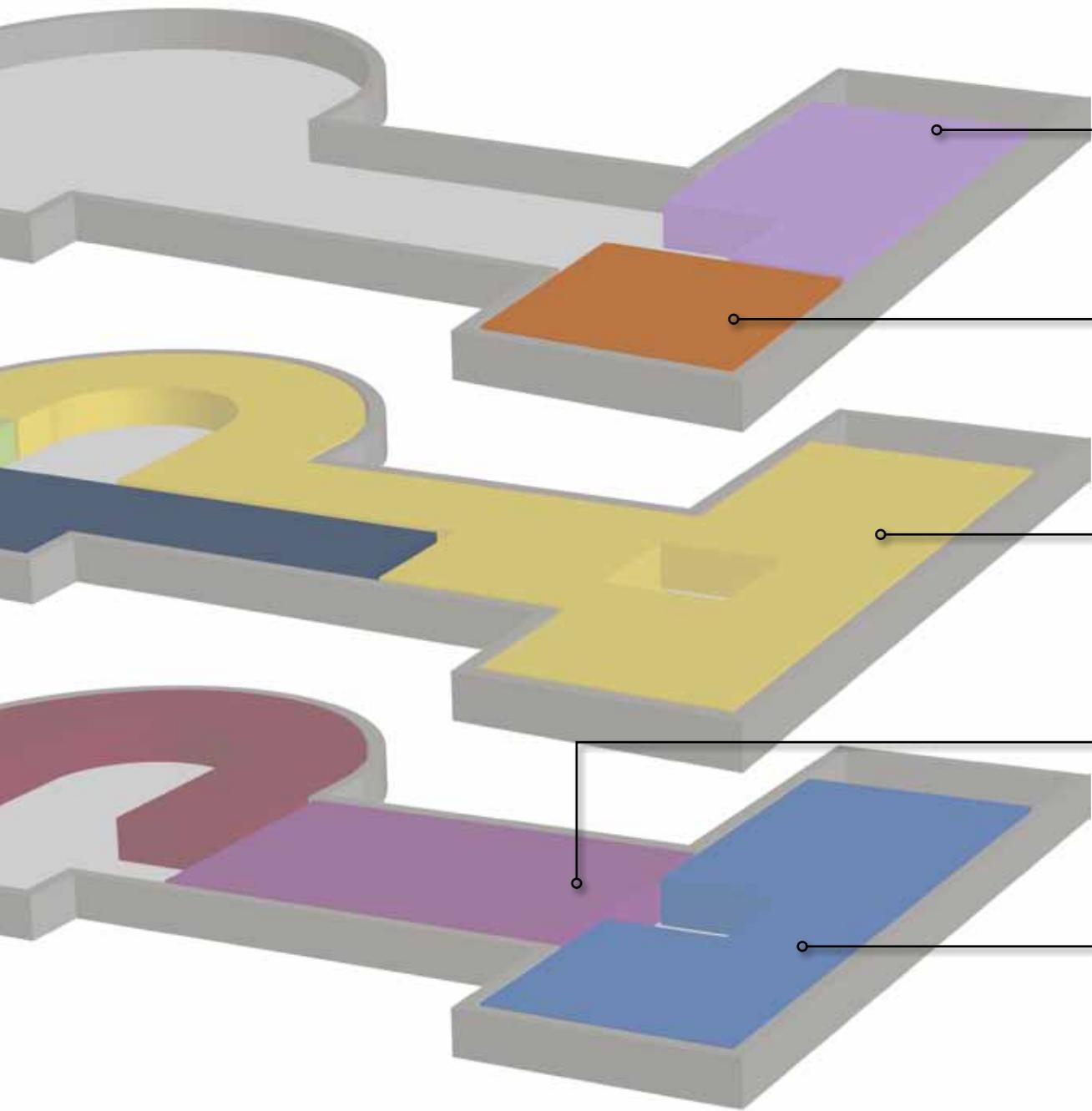
The whale skeletons have given the Museum a distinctive character for more than 150 years.

From ice age to the future

Landscape, plant and animal life change in natural ways over time.

The making of a land

Geological processes that continually shape the landscape.



Temporary exhibitions
Travelling exhibitions, current themes and new research finds.

Ex – endangered species
Species become extinct and become rare. The rich diversity of nature must not be taken for granted.

Life Forms
A richly illustrated exhibition of biological diversity and evolution.

Collection of wonder
A large number of animals, plants and minerals can be examined at close range.

Norwegian Seas
An interdisciplinary presentation of the marine environment and life in our adjacent ocean areas.

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From the exhibition of exotic mammals at Muséclass 3.
Photo: Terje Lislevand

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